

We claim:

1                    1.     A method for synchronizing audio data to text data from a  
2 source, the method comprising:  
3                    segregating a source text data of a given format into a plurality of text  
4 sections;  
5                    recording in any order audio data portions each corresponding to a text  
6 section;  
7                    converting each recorded audio portion into an audio data file;  
8                    assembling the audio data files in a sequence corresponding the given  
9 format of the source text data; and  
10                    generating for said assembled data files a playback control file  
11 indicating points of navigation of the source text data.

1                    2.     The method of claim 1 wherein said playback control file  
2 contains links to corresponding points of navigation of said audio data files.

1                    3.     The method of claim 1 wherein a said text section correspond  
2 to any one of a chapter, page or word count of the source text data.

1                    4.     The method of claim 1 wherein a narrator reads a selected text

2 section to form an audio portion and produces a mark of the beginning and end of  
3 the text section recorded as an audio portion to mark the points for converting to  
4 an audio data file.

1 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of  
2 placing the assembled audio data files and playback control file on a  
3 medium for audio playback of said audio data files and display of said playback  
4 control file.

1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said playback control file  
2 contains links to corresponding points of navigation of said audio data files.

1 7. The method of claim 5 further comprising the steps of  
2 a user selecting a text section to be played back by selecting the  
3 section from the display; and  
4 audio reproduction of the selected text section.

1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the source data text is placed on  
2 the medium and the text is displayed upon selection from the playback control file.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the audio portions are recorded

by one or more narrators in any sequence and at any time or times.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the audio data is produced by at least two narrators located at the same or separate computer terminals.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the computer terminals are linked to a network of at least one of a local area network, a wide area network, an intranet, and an Internet connection.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the text data is stored in at least one of an HTML format and a XML format.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
storing the playback control data, the audio data and the text data on a portable computer-readable medium.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the portable computer-readable medium comprises at least one of a CD-ROM, A DVD-ROM, a ZIP disk, and a floppy disk.

~~15.~~ Apparatus for synchronizing audio data to a plurality of text data

2 sections of a source text, comprising:

3 a computer including means for recording in any order audio data  
4 portions each corresponding to a text section;

5 means for converting each recorded audio portion into an audio data  
6 file;

7 means for assembling the audio data files in a sequence corresponding  
8 the given format of the source text data; and

9 means for generating for said assembled data files a playback control  
10 file indicating points of navigation of the source text data.

11 16. Apparatus as in claim 15 wherein said playback control file  
12 contains links to corresponding points of navigation of said audio data files.

13 17. Apparatus as in claim 15 further comprising:

14 means for receiving a medium having recorded thereon said audio files  
15 and said playback control file;

16 means for displaying said playback control file; and

17 means for playing back in audio form the data of an audio file selected  
18 from the displayed playback control file.

